100th Congress
2d Session

HOUSE COMMITTEE PRINT NO. 16

MEMORIAL OF THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY

A MUSEUM OF PEACE

REPORT ON THE DEDICATION

BY THE

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 30, 1988.—Printed for the use of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives

---

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

88-436 ≈

WASHINGTON : 1988

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Congressional Sales Office
U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402

H762-9

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY, Mississippi, *Chairman*

DON EDWARDS, California
DOUGLAS APPLEGATE, Ohio
DAN MICA, Florida
WAYNE DOWDY, Mississippi
LANE EVANS, Illinois
MARCY KAPTUR, Ohio
TIMOTHY J. PENNY, Minnesota
HARLEY O. STAGGERS, JR., West Virginia
J. ROY ROWLAND, Georgia
JOHN BRYANT, Texas
JAMES J. FLORIO, New Jersey
KENNETH J. GRAY, Illinois
PAUL E. KANJORSKI, Pennsylvania
TOMMY F. ROBINSON, Arkansas
CHARLES W. STENHOLM, Texas
CLAUDE HARRIS, Alabama
JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, II, Massachusetts
ELIZABETH J. PATTERSON, South Carolina
TIM JOHNSON, South Dakota
JIM JONTZ, Indiana

GERALD B.H. SOLOMON, New York
JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT, Arkansas
CHALMERS P. WYLIE, Ohio
BOB STUMP, Arizona
BOB McEWEN, Ohio
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, New Jersey
DAN BURTON, Indiana
MICHAEL BILIRAKIS, Florida
THOMAS J. RIDGE, Pennsylvania
JOHN G. ROWLAND, Connecticut
ROBERT K. DORNAN, California
ROBERT C. SMITH, New Hampshire
JACK DAVIS, Illinois

MACK FLEMING, *Chief Counsel and Staff Director*

FOREWORD

"If ever there was a piece of ground consecrated with the blood of American soldiers, it is Omaha Beach." Congressman Sam Gibbons (FL)

On June 6, 1944, a military force of 153,000 American, British, and Canadian soldiers launched the most massive assault and land battle of its kind ever attempted in the history of the world. The goal was the liberation of Europe and the preservation and restoration of freedom and dignity in the western world. The battle was to last 76 days—the longest in history. At stake was more than the fate of the 400 million people already under Nazi oppression. Ultimately, the freedom of humankind hung in the balance.

The D-Day assault and amphibious landing involved 5,000 naval vessels and 11,000 sorties of Allied aircraft. Three divisions of airborne troops, the 82nd and the 101st of the United States and the 6th of Britain, dropped inland and captured key points which German reinforcements were prevented from using.

The loss in both men and material was high. American casualties at Normandy totaled 127,000, including 31,000 killed.

Few events have had such a resounding impact on the course of world history. The D-Day invasion was massive, brilliant and successful. We owe our liberty to our servicemen and Allies for their courage and extraordinary efforts in bringing about the defeat of Hitler's armies. This battle was the turning point of the war in Europe, unrivaled in its intensity, bitterness, and tragedy.

To commemorate that effort and the Allied sacrifices during the summer of 1944, which resulted in the liberation of Europe, the people of France in cooperation with 12 other Allied Nations have built a Memorial Museum of Peace in Caen, France. The museum is the inspiration of the longtime mayor of Caen, Jean-Marie Girault. 80 percent of Caen was leveled by the Allies as they pressed against fierce Nazi resistance. The museum which comprises 37 acres is situated on the plot of land around which some of the worst fighting took place. It is also directly over the underground bunker headquarters of General Von Richter, commander of the 716th German Infantry Division.

In acknowledgement of this memorial museum, the Congress approved S.J. Res 356 (Public Law 99-378), recognizing and supporting the efforts of the United States Committee for the Battle of Normandy Museum of Peace to encourage American awareness and participation in development of a memorial to the Battle of Normandy, a copy of which appears in this document.

In his letter of invitation, President of the U.S. Committee for the Battle of Normandy Museum, Anthony Stout, wrote to me, as

Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Housing and Memorial Affairs, and to Chairman Montgomery of the Full Committee asking us "to be part of the U.S. Delegation to the opening of the Battle of Normandy Museum in Paris and Normandy, June 4–7 of this year . . . I recommend that you and the Chairman participate in our June Delegation on a familiarization basis . . . I do believe it would be valuable for you to attend in June to lay the ground work for a large November Delegation and I hope you can accept our invitation."

In observation of the dedication and official museum opening at which representatives from 13 Allied nations attended, I led a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) of 5 Members to represent the entire House of Representatives at the dedication of the Battle of Normandy Museum of Peace in Caen, France during June 4–8, 1988.

Our presence at the dedication ceremony served as a living tribute to those heroic individuals who successfully completed an impossible task. Their story reveals the struggle for freedom in the 20th century. It is a powerful reminder of the price of freedom and the fragility of peace on earth. Some 106 Members of the 100th Congress served in World War II; According to the results of a 1988 VA Committee Survey of Members

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Daniel Akaka	D–HI	Army	45–47
Glenn Anderson	D–CA	Army	43–45
Cass Ballenger	R–NC	NAC	44–45
Doug Barnard	D–GA	Army	43–45
Charles Bennett	D–FL	Army	42–47
Tom Bevill	D–AL	Army	43–46
Edward P. Boland	D–MA	Army	42–46
Jack Brooks	D–TX	USMC	42–46
William S. Broomfield	R–MI	AAC	42
George E. Brown, Jr.	D–CA	Army	42–46
Bill Chappell, Jr.	D–FL	Navy	42–47
James McClure Clarke	D–NC	Navy	42–45
Silvio O. Conte	R–MA	Navy	42–44
E. (Kika) De La Garza	D–TX	Navy	45–46
William L. Dickinson	R–AL	Navy	43–46
John D. Dingell	D–MI	Army	44–46
Bernard J. Dwyer	D–NJ	Navy	40–45
Don Edwards	D–CA	Navy	42–45
Dante B. Fascell	D–FL	Army	41–46
Hamilton Fish, Jr.	R–NY	NR	44–46
William D. Ford	D–MI	Navy	44–46
Joseph M. Gaydos	D–PA	NR	44–46
Sam Gibbons	D–FL	Army	41–45
Benjamin A. Gilman	R–NY	AAC	42–45
Henry Gonzales	D–TX	Army	WW II
William (Bill) Goodling	R–PA	Army	46–48
Kenneth J. Gray	D–IL	AAC	43–45
Frank J. Guarini	D–NJ	NR	44–47
Ralph M. Hall	D–TX	Navy	42–45
J. P. Hammerschmidt	R–AR	AAC	42–45
Frank J. Horton	R–NY	Army	41–46
Amory Houghton, Jr.	R–NY	USMC	45–46
Earl Dewitt Hutto	D–FL	Navy	44–46

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Continued

Henry J. Hyde	R–IL	Navy	42–46
Robert Kastenmeier	D–WI	Army	43–46
Joseph P. Kolter	D–PA	AF	44–45
Robert Lagomarsino	R–CA	Navy	44–46
Delbert L. Latta	R–OH	MCR	42–43
William Lehman	D–FL	AAC	42–46
Tom Lewis	R–FL	AF	43–54
Thomas A. Luken	D–OH	USMC	43–45
Alfred (Al) McCandless	R–CA	USMC	45–46
Robert Michel	R–IL	Army	42–46
John (Joe) Moakley	D–MA	Navy	43–46
G. V.(Sonny) Montgomery,	D–MS	Army	43–46
Carlos J. Moorhead	R–CA	Army	42–45
Austin J. Murphy	D–PA	USMC	44–46
John T. Myers	R–IN	Army	45–46
William H. Natcher	D–KY	Navy	42–45
Bill Nichols	D–AL	Army	43–47
Howard C. Nielson	R–UT	AF	43–46
James R. (Jim) Olin	D–VA	Army	43–46
J. J. (Jake) Pickle	D–TX	Navy	42–45
James H. (Jimmy) Quillen	R–TN	Navy	42–46
Arthur Ravenel	R–SC	USMC	45–46
Richard B. Ray	D–GA	Navy	44–45
Ralph S. Regula	R–OH	Navy	44–46
Peter W. Rodino, Jr.	D–NJ	Army	41–46
Robert A. Roe	D–NJ	Army	43–46
J. Roy Rowland	D–GA	Army	44–46
Edward R. Roybal	D–CA	Army	44–45
Gus Savage	D–IL	Army	43–46
James H. Scheuer	D–NY	Army	43–45
Norman Sisisky	D–VA	Navy	45–46
Joseph R. (Joe) Skeen	R–NM	Navy	45–46
D. French Slaughter, Jr.	R–VA	Army	43–47
Neal Smith	D–IA	AAC	42–45
Louis Stokes	D–OH	Army	43–46
Samuel S. Stratton	D–NY	Navy	42–46
Bob Stump	R–AZ	Navy	43–46
Morris Udall	D–AZ	AAC	42–46
Tim Valentine	D–NC	AAC	44–46
Ted Weiss	D–NY	Army	46–47
George C. Wortley	R–NY	Navy	45–46
Jim Wright	D–TX	AAC	41–45
Chalmers Wylie	R–OH	Army	42–45
Sidney R. Yates	D–IL	Navy	44–46

U.S. SENATE

Brock Adams	D–WA	Navy	44–46
Lloyd Bentsen	D–TX	AAC	42–45
Dale Bumpers	D–AR	USMC	43–45
John H. Chafee	R–RI	USMC	42–45
Alan Cranston	D–CA	Army	44–46
Alan J. Dixon	D–IL	Navy	45–46
Robert Dole	R–KS	Army	43–48
Daniel Evans	R–WA	Navy	43–46
J. James Exon	D–NE	Army	41–45
Wendell H. Ford	D–KY	Army	44–46
John H. Glenn, Jr.	D–OH	USMC	42–65
Mark O. Hatfield	R–OR	Navy	43–46

U.S. SENATE—Continued

Howell Heflin	D–AL	USMC	42–46
Jesse A. Helms	R–NC	Navy	42–45
Ernest (Fritz) Hollings	D–SC	Army	42–45
Daniel K. Inouye	D–HI	Army	43–47
Frank R. Lautenberg	D–NJ	Army	42–46
James McClure	R–ID	Navy	42–45
Spark M. Matsunaga	D–HI	Army	41–45
John Melcher	D–MT	Army	43–45
Daneiel Patrick Moynihan	D–NY	Navy	44–47
Claiborne Pell	D–RI	CG	41–45
William Proxmire	D–WI	Army	41–46
William V. Roth, Jr.	R–DE	Army	43–46
Terry Sanford	D–NC	Army	42–45
Robert T. Stafford	R–VT	Navy	42–44
Ted Stevens	R–AK	AF	43–46
Strom Thurmond	R–SC	Army	42–46
John W. Warner	R–VA	Navy	44–46

Of this number, the following fought in the Battle of Normandy:

Tom Bevill
Sam Gibbons
Robert Michel
G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery
John T. Myers
Bill Nichols
Robert A. Roe
Sam Stratton
Strom Thurmond
Chalmers Wylie

Many should be thanked for the success of this memorable trip. The U.S. Committee for the Battle of Normandy Museum of Peace was the overall coordinator of the Museum's opening activities. In particular, I would like to thank Mr. Anthony Stout, Colonel Thomas P. Garigan, and Ms. Dane Towell for the assistance they gave to the Congressional delegation. I would also like to commend the Board of Directors and Advisors for the U.S. Committee for the Battle of Normandy Museum of Peace for their efforts in ensuring American support of this Museum:

General J. Lawton Collins
U.S.A. Retired

Mrs. Omar N. Bradley
Widow of General Omar N. Bradley

General John W. Vessey
Former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Senator Robert Dole
U.S. Senate

Representative Sam Gibbons
U.S. House of Representatives

Senator Charles McC. Mathias, Jr., U.S. Senate Retired

General Maxwell D. Taylor
U.S.A. Retired

Rear Admiral John D. Bulkeley
President, INSURV

Lt. General Vernon A. Walters
U.S.A. Retired

Senator Paul Laxalt
U.S. Senate

Cooper T. Holt
Executive Director, VFW

His Excellency Emmanuel de Margerie, Ambassador of France to the U.S.

Pierre Colmant
Former Minister, Embassy of France

Anthony J.A. Bryan
President, Copperweld Corporation

Paul C. Sheeline
Chairman, Intercontinental Hotels

Anthony C. Stout
Chairman, National Journal, Inc.

Senator Strom Thurmond
U.S. Senate

Serge Bellanger
President, French-American Chamber of Commerce in the U.S.

The Honorable Joe M. Rodgers
Ambassador of the U.S. to France

Senator-Mayor Jean-Marie Girault
Mayor of Caen

Anthony Drexel Duke
President, Boys Harbor

George Stevens, Jr.
President, American Film Institute

I also especially want to thank Major Mary Lou Smullen, Senior Escort Officer of the Army Legislative Liason, for her tireless efforts in coordinating the many activities vital to the success of the delegation visit. Other personnel who should be commended are Lieutenant Col. Joseph F. Boessen, Dr. (Colonel) Ira Mehlman, Staff Sgt. Isaiah Daniels, and Sgt. Ron Damico who were most cooperative and helpful in supporting the CODEL's visit. All of these individuals worked continuously to make the trip pleasant and enjoyable. Everyone was highly impressed with their dedicated service. I take this opportunity to officially extend the thanks of the entire delegation for their support.

I would be remiss if I didn't single out for high commendation the contributions made by Congressman Sam Gibbons (FL–7th District), who actually participated in the Normandy invasion as a Captain in the 101st Airborne Division. Congressman Gibbons now serves as a director on the U.S. Committee to the Museum as does Senator Strom Thurmond (SC) who was in the 82nd Airborne Division. During our visit, Congressman Gibbons organized special tours for the other Members of the Delegation on the various battle sites and gave special insights on the role played by the neighboring towns and communities during the historical period. His moving renditions of D-Day, the scope of the war from the infantryman's vantage point, and his personal memories, were outstanding.

The occasion also provided an opportunity for the delegation to visit Utah Beach, Omaha Beach, Pointe du Hoc, as well as the U.S. Normandy Cemetery where 9,386 of our American war dead are interred. Many thanks should also be extended to Col. William E. Ryan and other American Battle Monuments Commission employees for the information and courtesies they provided.

So that the memory and lessons of this War may live on in the hearts and minds of future American generations, it is important that we set down in official form a brief account of this Museum of

Peace. We wish to record what was said and done by some of the individuals who traveled to commemorate the opening of this magnificent museum. Besides the excellent display of visual material, multi-media presentations, and documents, its purpose is to encourage visitors to understand the roots and scope of the War, why it happened, what happened, and the fragility of peace. Hence, its official name is the Museum of Peace. What makes it a particularly remarkable achievement is its sweeping historical breadth in tracing World War II to the period predating World War I—the "war that was to end all wars." It then details the events leading to and during World War II and follows the aftermath of World War II to the present day political alliances and tensions still rooted in that conflict.

The contents and portrayal of exhibits in this museum are extremely valuable in that the Congress is currently considering H.R. 3742, legislation which would create a World War II memorial and museum in the Washington, D.C. area as a "Tribute to Freedom" in the 20th Century.

I therefore ask that this account be published as an official print of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the U.S. House of Representatives.

MARCY KAPTUR

Public Law 99-378
99th Congress

Joint Resolution

To recognize and support the efforts of the United States Committee for the Battle of Normandy Museum to encourage American awareness and participation in development of a memorial to the Battle of Normandy.

Aug. 8, 1986
[S.J. Res. 356]

Whereas the battle fought in Normandy, France, in the summer months of 1944 was the largest land battle in history and considered by many to be the turning point of World War II in Europe;

Whereas the Battle of Normandy is one of the first examples of successful Allied military efforts to defend liberty and perpetuate freedom;

Whereas the people of France are creating a memorial museum and study center in Normandy to commemorate the Allied effort and provide future generations of students and others an opportunity to study and understand the causes of the European conflict and the role played by the Allied Governments and military forces in the successful resolution of that conflict; and

Whereas a United States Committee for the Battle of Normandy Museum has been created to inform Americans and encourage support of the museum and study center: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the United States Congress recognizes and supports the historic and educational purposes to be served by the museum and study center in Normandy, France, and of the United States Committee for the Battle of Normandy Museum to encourage understanding of and suppor among Americans for such an important memorial.

Approved August 8, 1986.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 356:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: Vol. 132 (1986):
July 23, considered and passed Senate.
July 28, considered and passed House.

71-139 O - 86 (382)

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Chairwoman: Honorable Marcy Kaptur, accompanied by Mrs. Anastasia Kaptur(mother)

Members:

Honorable and Mrs. Sam Gibbons
Honorable and Mrs. Dan Burton
Honorable and Mrs. Michael Bilirakis
Honorable and Mrs. Jack Davis

Veterans' Affairs Committee Staff:

Gloria Royce, Professional Staff Member
Susan Short, Subcommittee Professional Staff Member
Kingston Smith, Minority Deputy Counsel

Others:

Colonel and Mrs. William E. Ryan
American Battle Monuments Commission

Military:

Major Mary Lou Smullen, Senior Escort
Lt. Col. Joseph Boessen, Escort
Dr. Ira Mehlman, Physician

Mr. Parker F. Hallberg, Embassy Control Officer

ITINERARY
CODEL KAPTUR
PARIS/CAEN, FRANCE
JUNE 4-8, 1988

Saturday, June 4

7:00 AM Depart Andrews Air Force Base.

8:35 PM Arrive Paris.

8:40 PM Depart Paris Airport for Hotel Intercontinental Paris.

Sunday, June 5

8:00 AM Depart hotel Mass at Notre Dame.

8:45 AM Mass at Nortre Dame.

10:00 AM Depart hotel for bus tour of Paris.

12:00 PM Depart Paris by bus for Carentan.

3:00 PM Arrive Carentan.

3:30 PM Begin three hour tour of Carentan, Utah Beach and St.-Mere-Eglise, give by Congessman Gibbons. Includes visit to the 16th century Chateau of M. Jean-Yves Lecuyer.

7:00 PM Arrive at banquet at St.-Mere-Eglise, hosted by the Mayor of Caen.

9:00 PM Principal D-Day ceremonies at Utah Beach with fireworks display.

10:00 PM Return to Novotel in Bayeux.

Monday, June 6

8:45 AM Depart hotel for US Normandy Cemetery.

9:30 AM Ceremony at US Normandy Cemetery.

10:15 AM Visit Omaha Beach.

10:45 AM Visit Pointe du Hoc.

12:15 PM Lunch at Chancellor of Exchequer with British and Canadian Delegation.

2:00 PM Depart for Caen for official museum opening.

3:00 PM Ceremony to open and dedicate Memorial Museum.

3:30 PM Ceremonies and entertainment will be conducted outside museum.

4:00 PM Return to hotel.

7:00 PM Depart hotel for dinner.

7:30 PM Dinner at Grand Hotel Pullman at Cabourg sponsored by the US Committee for the Battle of Normandy Museum.

Tuesday, June 7

8:45 AM Depart hotel for tour of Normandy Museum.

9:30 AM Tour Normandy Museum.

10:30 AM Depart for Paris via bus.

1:30 PM Arrive Hotel Intercontinental Paris.

Wednesday, June 8

7:30 AM Depart hotel for Orly Airport.

8:15 AM Depart Orly Airport.

11:20 AM Arrive Andrews Air Force Base.

French unveil monument to '44 Normandy invasion

By Al Neuharth
USA TODAY Founder

CAEN, France — The unveiling of the biggest monument yet to the Normandy invasion sent shivers of sadness and pride through U.S. military men young and old here Monday.

The triumphant march that freed France and sent Hitler reeling began on these beaches 44 years ago Monday.

In observance, French President Francois Mitterrand dedicated a $16 million "Battle of Normandy Museum."

Mitterrand, 71, invited me to fly from Paris and back with him on the presidential helicopter. Other members of the USA TODAY JetCapade news team, just beginning our European coverage, came by plane.

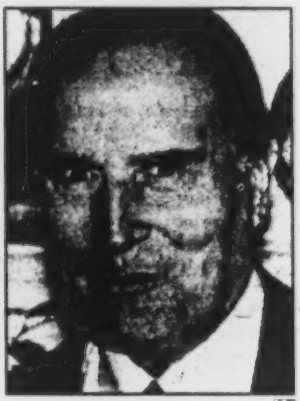
We saw and heard:

▶ Mitterrand tell the crowd of 10,000: "This monument commemorates the suffering of war. But its real purpose is to teach that peace is possible through brotherhood."

▶ En route, the president reflect on the anxiety and exhilaration of his D-day. He was with the French Resistance, having escaped from a German prison camp on his third try. He fought with the French infantry, was wounded and captured in 1940.

▶ Some 150 old U.S. soldiers reminiscing. "I still get a lump in my throat when I see the graves of my friends," said Ted Liska, 70, from Chicago.

▶ 282 young U.S. paratroopers float down as part of the two-day ceremony. The cliffs near here and hedgerows of Normandy were bathed in brilliant sunshine, peacefully different from the precarious parachuting in the stormy predawn of D-day.



AP

MITTERRAND: Was with French Resistance on D-day

Contributing were David Mazzarella and Jack Kelley

The Battle of Normandy Museum

The glass and white stone building rises majestically on a windswept hill in Normandy. Below, toward the sea, the headquarters bunker of German General Wilhelm Richter still sits half hidden, a ghostly memory of battle.

"It will be a teaching museum," explains Anthony C. Stout, about the new edifice outside of Caen, France. "It's designed to encourage research and study of World War II, its causes and its resolution."

Stout is president of the U.S. Committee for the Battle of Normandy Museum, which is providing support for the operation and maintenance of the undertaking, especially in terms of archival research.

The U.S. Committee also hopes to create an American Visitors Center, which will serve as a home base for students, families and scholars, who come to Normandy to study and visit the important sites that played a role in the history of the Second World War.

The multinational museum includs a documentation center and archives.

The formal dedication of the Memorial took place on the anniversary of D-Day this year--6 June 1988--44 years after the Allied landings in Nazi-occupied France.

The American effort will concentrate on the educational aspects of the museum. It includes a board of U.S. historians, which will inventory wartime documents in U.S. government and private archives and will arrange for loans to the museum. Scholarships will be established for Americans to study at the museum and at the University of Caen.

"We want to assist the museum in a manner that will encourage the broadcast and most instructional uses of its facilities for education," said Stout.

Assault troops of the 3rd Battalion, 16th Infantry, have gained the comparative safety offered by the chalk cliff at their backs. The men take a breather before moving onto the continent at Colville-Sur-Mer, Omaha Beach, in Normandy. Medics who landed with the men treat them for minor injuries.

Photo U.S. Army

In addition to the historians, a committee of American war correspondents who covered the Battle of Normandy and events in the European Theater of Operations is being formed to collect as many stories, first-hand accounts, broadcasts, and photographs of their colleagues as possible for the museum archives.

Memorial aspects of the museum honor America's role in Normandy. A flag-bedecked Eisenhower Esplanade leads up to the entrance of the Memorial museum. Adjacent to the Eisenhower Esplanade will be the United States Garden of Remembrance, including commemorative stones from the 55 states and territories, and waves of marble, in which will be carved the names of the individual units that participated in the Normandy campaign.

The State of Maryland commemorative stone of Woodstock granite is engraved with the name of the 29th Division of the Maryland National Guard that fought on Omaha Beach. The Michigan state stone came from the state's Upper Peninsula, home of the 107th Engineer Battalion, of which Company A was in the first wave of the invasion. Connecticut's state stone comes from the same quarry that provided the base for the Statue of Liberty.

A *Book of Remembrance* for all countries occupies a central place. In the book are hand-written pages listing the names of all those who fell in the Normandy campaign. Thirty-one thousand Americans died during the 76-day battle from 6 June to 22 August 1944.

Within the exhibit area, visitors experience a voyage through time and memory--hence the idea of "memorial". Beginning with the Treaty of Versailles, the museum treats the Jazz Age, the Depression, the rise of Hitler, the failure of the Peace, the collapse of France, the Occupation, the beginning of the World War, with America's entrance into the conflict, the industrial and technological advances as a result of the war effort, the spark of the Resistance, the nightmare of the Holocaust.

D-Day is treated as a special, 15-minute audio-visual spectacular. The final message of the museum is a film on peace, war and the meaning of "resistance".

The essential features of the museum are two ideas: freedom and peace.

The museum makes extensive use of audio-visual materials: 180 degree cinema screens, computers, data banks, microfilm, maps, vido discs, photographs, films, recordings, slides, printed materials, oral histories, and video cassettes.

The exhibit areas also have the traditional displays of artifacts that recognize the technological and industrial progress spawned by the war. The displays feature many contributions to the Allied victory by American companies.

The museum has attracted support throughout Europe. At the groundbreaking in September of 1986, the 13 countries engaged in combat in Normandy on 6 June 1944 sent commemorative foundation stones, which were placed directly under each country's flag.

Looking down on Omaha Beach today.

The American stone was cut from Tennessee marble and bears the instruction of General Dwight David Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander, to American troops on the eve of D-Day:

"The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you."

The U.S. Committee has been endorsed by a Joint Resolution of Congress, which was promulgated into Public Law 99-378 on 8 August 1986.

In a letter to the U.S. Committee, President Reagan said, "I share your determination to keep alive the memory of this historic struggle for the cause of democracy."

The city of Caen is contributing half of the $15 million cost of the museum itself with the rest of the financing coming from the national and regional French governments.

the U.S. Committee hopes to raise more than five hundred thousand dollars annually for American projects in connection with the museum. ★

Reprinted from *International Herald Tribune*, June 15, 1987

Representative Sam Gibbons indicating the spot where he landed in Normandy on D-Day.

'Museum of Ideas' to Commemorate Normandy Battle, Why It Was Fought

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

CAEN, France — Rising in a green field just outside Caen is a hangar-like building that within a year will stand as "a museum of ideas" explaining the Battle of Normandy, a turning point of World War II in Europe.

"It's going to be more than just another war museum," said Representative Sam M. Gibbons, Democrat of Florida, who fought in the battle and who is a member of a U.S. committee supporting the project. "There are lots of places where they've got an old rusty this and an old rusty that."

But the Caen memorial, he said in an interview, will be "a museum of ideas, because that is what the war was all about, really. We did not covet any territory. We only were defending what we thought was the idea of freedom."

Mr. Gibbons and Senator Strom Thurmond, Republican of South Carolina, another Normandy veteran and a fellow member of the support committee, led about 200 U.S. legislators, veterans, historians and corporate executives to Caen this weekend to arouse interest and financial backing for the project.

> **'It's going to be more than just another war museum. There are lots of places where they've got an old rusty this and an old rusty that.'**
>
> ***— Sam M. Gibbons, U.S. congressman***

"We took advantage of the fact that many of these people were in Paris for the air show," said Anthony Stout, a Washington publisher who is on the board of directors of the support committee.

Mr. Stout said corporate participation was important because the Caen museum would tell the story of the technological and industrial progress spurred by the war, including the contribution of U.S. industry to the Allied cause.

But Mr. Stout said the committee, which has the support of Congress, also hoped that thousands of American citizens would participate in the project through modest donations or in other ways.

Caen is putting up more than half the 91-million-franc ($15-million) cost of the museum itself, with the rest of the financing coming from the national and regional governments. But there is plenty of room for expansion on the 37-acre (15-hectare) site.

Additional funds will be used to enlarge archives and exhibits, create research facilities and provide

NORMANDY: *'Museum of Ideas'*

(Continued from Page 1)

scholarships so that historians can come to Caen and study the battle.

One project is a computerized index of all available source material on the battle; most of the material is scattered in different countries. Another idea is an audio-visual archive that would contain everything from Hollywood movies of the epoch to miles of intelligence pictures that have not been looked at since the war.

But the project is primarily meant to be a memorial to the battle that raged around this ancient city for two months in the summer of 1944, an attempt to tell younger generations why it was fought, in the hope that something like it will never have to be fought again.

The museum of glass and white Normandy stone will rise above the bunker headquarters where General Wilhelm Richter, commanding the German 716th Infantry Division, directed the battle against British-Canadian forces advancing on Caen from the Normandy beachheads.

Within the museum, visitors will be led on what the designers call "a voyage through memory," from the Treaty of Versailles, through the jazz age and the rise of Nazism to the occupation of France and the Holocaust.

The crowning part of the visit will be a 15-minute "spectacular" of the invasion itself followed by another display illustrating the memorial's message of peace.

Despite the fact the building still is an empty shell, all of this is supposed to be ready for inauguration by June 6 next year, the 44th anniversary of the battle.

Will it be?

The mastermind of the project, Jean-Marie Girault, the mayor of Caen, raised his shoulders in a shrug. "It has to be ready," he said.

Mr. Girault, who was an 18-year-old Red Cross worker during the battle, had the idea of building the memorial shortly after becoming mayor in 1970 because, as he once explained, "we have the duty to ensure the survival of the memory of the events of 1939-45."

But first he had to complete the task of repairing the ravages of war, which destroyed three quarters of the town. It was not until 1983 that he was seriously able to embark on his dream by beginning an architectural competition for the memorial.

The official ground-breaking took place in September. Thirteen countries, including both East and West Germany, sent commemorative stones.

"This museum had to be built in Caen, and it had to be done now," Prime Minister Jacques Chirac said at the time. "It will be a temple of our Western values where young generations will come to meditate, think and feed their energy from the springs of history."

After visiting the museum site, the American party traveled about 30 miles (48 kilometers) to Omaha Beach, where U.S. forces suffered their worst mauling of the battle as they came ashore in the teeth of German heavy artillery and machine gun emplacements.

"If there was ever a consecrated piece of ground bought with American blood, it was Omaha Beach," said Mr. Gibbons, who as a captain in the 501st Parachute Infantry jumped behind German lines on D-Day.

In the cemetery on the heights above the beach, 9,386 Americans are buried beneath simple white crosses and stars of David; 31,000 U.S. soldiers, seamen and airmen died during the 76 days of the Battle of Normandy.

All told, 3,120,000 combatants took part in the battle, and 367,000 were killed or wounded.

"Here was the beginning of the end for the Nazis," said Mr. Thurmond, who participated in the battle as a major in the 82d Airborne Division.

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE
Wednesday, 4 May 1988

Normandy Museum to Celebrate Peace, Not War

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The city of Caen is racing to complete a "museum of peace" meant to explain in a different way the why, what and how of the Battle of Normandy — why it happened, what happened and how to stop its happening again.

The Battle of Normandy Memorial Museum, which is to open on the anniversary of the June 6, 1944, invasion, is an attempt to crystallize and perpetuate the collective consciousness of the vast conflict that ebbed and flowed for 76 days in the verdant countryside surrounding Caen. The battle, which marked the beginning of the end of the Nazi empire, involved more than 3 million combatants from a dozen nations and resulted in the death or injury of an estimated 367,000 people.

The $15.8-million museum, of glass and white stone rising above the bunker headquarters of the German commander in Caen, is planned as a storehouse of ideas, rather than of the rusting tanks, planes and other martial hardware that can be seen in a dozen other exhibitions around Normandy. Jean-Marie Girault, the mayor, who was a teen-age rescue worker at the time of the invasion, is determined that the museum "will not be a celebration of war."

It will be a repository of democratic values, telling future generations that freedom does not come cheap, that democracy has to earned and safeguarded, according to Mr. Girault, who sees the museum as the culmination of the city's restoration. Caen was largely obliterated during the battle.

At the ground-breaking ceremony in 1986, when commemorative stones from all the combatant nations, including West and East Germany, were dedicated, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac said the museum "will be a temple of our Western values where young generations will come to meditate, think and feed their energy from the springs of history." Whether the designers have succeeded in that aim will be up to the public to judge when the exhibits are unveiled in a month's time.

The organizers promise that through the most up-to-date techniques, visitors will be guided on a "journey through history" from 1918 to the present day.

The exhibits, film shows and other descriptive techniques are organized under five headings: the downfall of peace from 1918 to the outbreak of war; France under Nazi occupation; the spread of global war and its impact on technology and science; the Normandy landing and the defeat of the Nazis; and a final section on modern history offering what the organizers call food for thought about the fragility of democracy.

The project is receiving broad and increasing support in the United States, according to Anthony Stout, a Washington publisher who is president of the U.S. Committee for the Battle of Normandy Museum. "In our recent history, Normandy is the one thing of which Americans can be totally and unreservedly proud," he said. A joint resolution of Congress in 1986 expressed official support for the historic and educational aims of the museum.

Mr. Stout says the committee has raised more than $2 million and hopes to raise at least $1 million a year from private subscribers in order to support the museum's work.

Part of the funds will be used to enlarge archives and create research facilities and set up a computerized index of all available source material about the battle to enable the museum to become a place of scholarship as well as of remembrance.

The archives will include not just the written documentation, but Hollywood movies, stacks of intelligence pictures, the music of the epoch and, above all, the personal recollections of the people who took part in the battle.

In what is possibly the biggest invasion of American top brass since D-Day itself, 24 American adjutants general and generals have been visiting the unfinished museum and touring the Normandy beaches this week. On Wednesday, they will attend a ceremony in the city hall at which flags and commemorative stones from all 50 states, four territories and the District of Columbia will be handed over to the city. The adjutants general are the senior military commanders in their respective states, who are in charge of the National Guard in peacetime. They include Major General Francis R. Gerard of New Jersey, who, as a former fighter pilot, took part in the Normandy battle.

June 6, 1988, Monday, AM cycle

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 502 words

HEADLINE: Mitterrand Inaugurates Normandy Battle Museum

BYLINE: By ARTHUR ALLEN, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: CAEN, France

KEYWORD: France-D-Day

BODY:
President Francois Mitterrand inaugurated a museum devoted to peace Monday at the site of one of the world's great battles, and said he hoped it would help unify Europe.

Flanked by dignitaries, Mitterrand marked the 44th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Normandy by calling on world leaders to be "masters of our history," united frustrating a resurgence of "the forces of intolerance and oppression."

He said the museum was intended to emphasize that unity is essential to peace.

"Peace will be based not only on the superpowers but also on a strong, independent Europe," he said.

Among those at the ceremony were the first German delegation to attend a D-Day anniversary and a multinational group of 160 schoolchildren.

Three million men fought in the 76-day Battle of Normandy that began June 6, 1944, and 367,000 were killed or wounded. Victory for the Allies forced the Germans into retreat and marked a turning point in the war.

The glass-and-white-stone structure stands on a bluff in a suburb of Caen, atop a bunker used as a German division headquarters during the Allied invasion. Fractured granite lines the narrow entrance to the spacious main hall.

Caen, in the British sector of the invasion front, was among the many Normandy cities leveled. The museum was the idea of Mayor Jean-Marie Girault, who called it the crowning achievement of the city's reconstruction.

World War II was the first great war fought over political ideology, museum organizers said.

"Although we were fighting battles over real estate, the war was really about ideological matters," said U.S. Rep. Sam Gibbons, a Florida Democrat and member of the American delegation to the ceremony.

Gibbons, a captain in the 501st Parachute Infantry, dropped behind German lines during the invasion. He is the only Normandy veteran in Congress.

Historians of the French Institute for the History of the Present, who developed the exhibits, said they were intended to balance the traditional depiction of various phases of the war in French textbooks.

Textbooks tend to glorify the Resistance, while skirting the role played by the Vichy regime, collaborators and the foreign troops who freed France, historian Denis Peschanski said.

"The idea of this museum is to give cause for reflection rather than to make the traditional arguments and appeals to emotional response," he said.

Along with British, Canadian and American regular armies, the Normandy invasion force included soldiers from Czechoslovakia, Poland, Norway, Greece, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and France.

Delegations from Italy, the Soviet Union and Japan also were present Monday, cluding Yoshitaka Kawamato, director of the Peace Museum at Hiroshima, Japan, site of the first nuclear bombing.

SPEECH from Mr. JEAN-MARIE GIRAULT
SENATOR-MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CAEN,
For the Inauguration of the MEMORIAL OF THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY
JUNE 6th 1988

Monsieur le Président de la République,

On behalf of the City of Caen, I have the honour of representing, and from myself personally, I thank you sincerely for having accepted to preside the inauguration of the Memorial of the Battle of Normandy - A museum for Peace, this Monday, sixth of June 1988, 44 years after '44.

On accepting my invitation, you have acknowledged that you appreciate the profound meaning of our initiative : to associate here, in the heart of what, in our region, was an immense battle-field, the memory of a very cruel period not so long ago, and the quest and meditation which must lead to peace in the World. Not only by hatred of war but also, and above all, by mutual love and respect among mankind.

Many among us here, and you, Monsieur le Président de la République, are one of them, are the men and women of that period.

Today, with the continual developments in the means of communication, public opinion in all countries - and that means, ladies and gentlemen, each one of us - contrary to the nineteen-thirties, has a decisive role to play in the conduct of World affairs.

To defend peace, liberty and human rights, values which can never be imposed by themselves and of which the preservation, the acquisition or the regaining, must be the aim of a permanent effort which we would always like to be pacific.

As a solemn confirmation of this real-life experience and this will for peace which is far beyond reconciliation, there are assembled together here today, for the first time since the Second World War, nations who were face to face yesterday and who are side by side today.

To the representatives of these assembled nations, I am grateful for their massive presence which responds to the ambition that the City of Caen, open to the World, will become a beacon for peace.

Veterans, and also those of your brothers who fell by your side,

Men and women of the shadows, of the night and of the mist, who have known suffering, sometimes mutilation, and to whom I associate those who did not come back or died in carrying out their duty,

Soldiers of Eastern Europe who fought furiously in Spring 1944 against Nazi ideology,

Men and women of our region and elsewhere who were not spared by the fighting in 1944, today alive or dead,

To all of you, I address our gratitude and the fidelity of our remembrance.

To all the soldiers who rest in the soil of Normandy, on whichever side they were during the Battle of Normandy, I express our regret and our hommage.

And let us not forget that many of them were only 20 years old.

20 years old ! It is this youth, sacrifised yesterday which make me turn now towards the children who are present today, they come from fifteen horizons different from ours to take publicly the hand of their new friends in Caen who welcome them, just like brothers and sisters, as if they had always known each other. New-born and prolific fraternities.

These children are the heirs of a World which knew the Second World War, fruit of hate, of blindness, of thoughtlessness and of weakness, a war which generated horror in the strict sense of the word.

They are also the bearers of a World in gestation which wants peace.

They are the future of all of us : this future of peace to which they are attached and of which they dream, it will be their work.But we adults must help them to build it thanks to our own wisdom.

Today in Caen, these children vouch for this future of peace by their moving and how meaningful presence. At the same time as this presence, silent and hidden, of their childlike conscience naturally tending towards fraternity and affection, their eyes instinctively open to life, a life from which they expect happiness.

These children are watching us. They are calling out to us.

Our duty is to resemble them, to assimilate their will for peace and for gathering together.

INTRODUCTION

During the period of June 4–8, 1988, I led a Congressional delegation of 5 Members who represented the Committee on Veterans' Affairs to attend the official opening of the Battle of Normandy Memorial Museum of Peace in Caen, France.

It was on June 6, 1944, that the battle of Normandy began. It is generally agreed that D-Day 1944 was the most historic battle of World War II and the most extensive amphibious military operation in history. Our visit had several purposes: (1) to represent the U.S. House of Representatives at the various memorial ceremonies held on the 44th anniversary of the invasion, (2) to tour the battlefields and monuments in the Normandy area, where the course of history was changed by the successful invasion on D-Day, and (3) to participate in the official opening of the Museum of Peace in Caen on June 6, 1988, the anniversary of the invasion, at the invitation of the U.S. Committee for the Battle of Normandy.

It should be noted that the cemeteries and monuments in the Normandy area come under the jurisdiction of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

SCOPE OF REPORT

This report is not intended to serve as an official statement regarding the events that occurred during the ceremonies associated with the opening of the museum. The delegation visited U.S. facilities under the administration of the American Battle Monuments Commission. In this regard, the delegation had the opportunity to evaluate the organization and its administration of these memorials and to evaluate the effectiveness of the administration and execution of this entity of our Government having responsibilities established and funded by Congress. The care and maintenance of these cemeteries and memorials is outstanding and they are unique for their simplicity and beauty.

ITINERARY AND CHRONOLOGY

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

Congressman Gibbons provided the delegation with a tour of Carentan, Sainte-Mere-Eglise, Hiesville, Vierville, and Utah Beach. Congressman Gibbons was a Captain of the 501st Infantry of the 101st Airborne Division in the initial assault force which landed by parachute in the darkness before the assault by sea and land began in Normandy. The mission of his division was to take Carentan and control the coastal area as far as Poupeville. Mr. Gibbons described in vivid detail his experiences in the war in relation to this area, the size of the forces involved, victories and defeats, and human in-

terest stories. He gave a perspective to the tour of this crucial period which could not be matched.

As an example, he recounted how two airborne divisions were to drop in designated areas in the American section of Utah Beach. The 82nd Airborne Division's primary mission was to take Sainte-Mere-Eglise and cut off rail and highway communications between Cherbourg and Paris. The 101st Airborne Division was to take Carentan and control the locks in the marshes of Carentan as soon as possible and take the sector between Sainte-Mere-Eglise and control the coast as far as Poupeville in order to permit the landing of the 4th Infantry Division near La Madeleine and Sainte-Marie-du Mont.

In Sainte-Mere-Eglise, paratroopers were coming down in large forces. German rifle and machine-gun fire killed many of the servicemen who landed in trees dangling helplessly. Members of the 82nd and 101st Airborne divisions of the U.S. Army fought their way into town. By 4:30 a.m. that morning, the American flag was flying outside the town hall and Sainte-Mere-Eglise became the first town in France to be liberated. The flag is enshrined in the lobby at the town hall. In addition, on the church tower is a replica of the American paratrooper John Steele, who remained suspended for some time by his parachute harness on its steeple.

The tour took the delegation through the countryside with its hedgerows—the sites of so much hand to hand combat—which we were told have not changed substantially. Congressman Gibbons also identified individual Normandy homes that were used by American forces during that period. We stopped at one chateau near the location where Congressman Gibbons initially landed. The proprietors have become friends with Congressman Gibbons. They were hospitable and courteous. They, like many others in Normandy, are still deeply appreciative to the United States for their liberation from Nazi Germany. One Sunday evening at twilight, the delegation also attended a moving memorial ceremony at Utah Beach hosted by the Mayor of Sainte-Marie-du-Pont. Representatives of several nations gave remarks, including the Ambassador of the United States to France, Mr. Joe M. Rodgers. The Codel presented a floral wreath on behalf of the Congress of the United States to commemorate those Americans who had given their lives in pursuit of freedom.

Utah Beach is situated west of Omaha Beach, and unlike Omaha Beach, those who landed were faced with a sea wall rather than hills to climb or cliffs to scale. Utah Beach provided access to the roads to the north and west, making the area a key to later operations as our forces moved inland to encircle and cut off the enemy forces. The VII Corps of the U.S. Army was assigned the task of seizing and holding the area behind Utah Beach as part of the goal to capture Cherbourg as soon as possible. There is a Utah Beach monument which commemorates the achievements and sacrifices of the American forces of the VII Corps who participated in the landing and liberation of the peninsula from June 6 to July 16, 1944. Also located around the site of the Utah Beach Monument stands a liberty way milestone and a monument to the U.S. 4th Di-

vision. Here also is an impressive monument to the Americans of the 1st Engineer Special Brigade, which is a former German blockhouse. On the north side of the esplanade, in the front of the Engineer Monument, is a small stake honoring the men of the 90th Division.

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 1988, THE 44TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE D-DAY INVASION

The delegation participated in a major memorial ceremony at the Normandy-American National Cemetery. The Normandy Cemetery is situated on a cliff overlooking Omaha Beach and the English Channel. The cemetery site covers 172 acres. It is green and beautiful but the rows of crosses and stars of David recreate somber memories of the invasion. It memorializes and bears testimony to the high price we paid for freedom. There is a memorial inscribed with the names of 1,557 missing and 307 graves of men whose names are known only to God. Nearly all, plus 14,000 other soldiers whose bodies were sent home, died between D-Day and the Allied breakout from Normandy on August 1. The most well-recognized Americans buried here are President Theodore Roosevelt's sons, Quentin and Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., who lie side-by-side. In 33 instances, two brothers lie side-by-side. In another instance, a father and son lie side-by-side. Almost all lost their lives in the landing operation.

The memorial is a moving tribute to those who made the supreme sacrifice. Inscribed on the north interior wall of the chapel is the inscription: "Think not only upon their passing, remember the glory of their spirit". A 22-foot bronze statue, located on the platform of the memorial "The Spirit of American Youth" rises out of the waves capturing this feeling for all time. This U.S. Cemetery and other memorials being cared for by the American Battle Monuments Commission deserve special praise. The cemetery and other areas which are the responsibility of the American Battle Monuments Commission that we visited were in excellent condition.

On the east side of the memorial is a semi-circular Garden of the Missing. There are 1,557 names inscribed on the wall of this lovely and beautiful landscaped garden of those who gave their lives in this region, but whose remains have not been recovered, or if recovered, not identified. The names are in alphabetical order and represent every state in the Union and the District of Columbia. A few come from England, Canada, and Scotland.

The delegation then proceeded to Pointe du Hoc and Omaha Beach prior to departing for Caen for the official museum opening.

There are still many reminders of the war years in this area, especially along the coast where gun emplacements and bunkers still stand. Although it was not a major undertaking in terms of numbers of soldiers and equipment involved, Pointe Du Hoc serves as the best example of courage under fire. It was Pointe du Hoc, with German guns well-situated within underground concrete bunkers, that became a symbol of American heroism. A 100 foot cliff was captured by the U.S. Ranger Battalion led by Colonel James

Rudder. The Rangers used rope ladders and hook ladders borrowed from fire fighters in Britain to climb this cliff. Despite the heaviest of losses, the Rangers took possession of the cliff as scheduled. Battle-scarred Pointe du Hoc remains today exactly as the Rangers left it in June of 1944. The only addition is a large stone monument erected in memorial tribute to the men who fought and died there by a dedicated grateful group of Frenchmen. Pointe du Hoc has been given in perpetuity to the United States and is administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

At Omaha Beach, the delegation was briefed by Congressman Gibbons on how the U.S. 1st and 29th Divisions experienced major difficulties, where the enemy was resisting with every device and weapon at his disposal. The terrain was also a major obstacle. Instead of sloping gently from the high ground to the rear, the beach area terminated in precipitious steep sandy bluffs. Troops had to cross an open area varying in width from a few yards at each end to about 200 yards in the center, and then attack up the steep bluffs to the plateau where the Normandy American Cemetery now stands. The only concealment available were patches of tall marsh grass. Fighting was bitter and casualties heavy. Nevertheless, the U.S. 1st Division took the high ground in which the cemetery stands before D-Day was over.

The delegation was then led to Caen, France for the opening ceremonies, at which President Francois Mitterrand of France, delivered a short, stirring address commemorating the sacrifices made. Military bands from many Allied countries played their national anthems and other patriotic tunes. President Mitterrand said, "This monument commemorates the suffering of war. But its real purpose is to teach that peace is possible through brotherhood." He was with the French Resistance and escaped from a German prison camp on his third try. He fought with the French infantry, was wounded and captured in 1940.

The French Air Force performed an airshow formation flyover with Mirage fighter aircraft in honor of the museum opening, followed by a formation of WW II British aircraft including the famous Spitfire.

This museum is the inspiration of the longtime mayor of Caen, Jean-Marie Girault who remembers how, in his youth, 80 percent of his city had been leveled by the Allies as they pressed against fierce German resistance.

Mayor Girault has previously been quoted as saying that "Caen was sacrificed in 1944 at the most decisive moment of the combat from which France and her allies were to emerge victorious."

"The memorial will not be a celebration of war; for the battles and the destruction it will bring back to mind are to be linked to recalling the essential lesson of war, a lesson it is mortally dangerous to ignore or to forget. The reasons which justified these battles are still with us today, totalitarian ideologies still constantly menace the peoples of the world, to the point where the number of democracies in existence is ceaselessly shrinking."

The museum has support throughout Europe. At the groundbreaking ceremonies, the 13 countries that were engaged in combat on the continent on June 6, 1944, sent commemorative stones. In a letter to the U.S. Committee President Reagan said, "I share your determination to keep alive the memory of the historical struggle for the course of democracy."

It should be noted that the cornerstone from the United States is made of Tennessee marble and bears and inscribed quotation from the late Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, "The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you."

TUESDAY, JUNE 7

The highlight of the trip was the tour of the new $15.8 million dollar glass and white stone museum. Instead of martial hardware, this museum is a repository of democratic values. Visitors are guided on a journey through the history of the 20th Century from 1918 to the present day.

The exhibits, film shows and other descriptive techniques are organized under five headings.

1) The downfall of peace from 1918 and World War I—"the war to end all wars"—to the outbreak of World War II,

2) France under Nazi occupation,

3) The spread of global war and its impact on technology and science,

4) The Normandy landing and the defeat of the Nazis; and

5) A section on modern history offering what the organizers call food for thought about the fragility of democracy.

Not all of the visual effects are in full operation as yet, but those which the delegation experienced were truly noteworthy. A short breakdown of the museum exhibits proceeds as follows.

1) The first section is devoted to the downfall of peace and the period in-between the two world wars. As soon as the visitor enters the Museum, audio-visual shows place him in the 1920 atmosphere. The *"der des der"* (popular French expression which means *la derniere des dernieres,* technically, "the last of the last") is already a memory when the 1929 crisis bursts out. Everywhere, authoritarianism appears as the solution, especially in Germany where Nazism has already started.

Photographs, documents, posters, videos and souvenirs immerse the visitor into the atmosphere of that epoch which ended with the outbreak of war, in September of 1939.

2) The second section relates the black years in France—the May—June 1940 fall, the Nazi occupation, Vichy, the collaborationists, and the change in opinion at that period. In this part of the museum, the look is different: collapsed walls, maps and audio-visual exhibits evoke the Resistance. Personal testimonies of those still living who remember the war are presented on a large screen with translation in several languages. Deportation is treated here with sobriety—some photographs, a video show and art works of a

Norman priest who died at Dachau. Resisters to the Nazi regime in France were executed in large numbers and memorabilia, photos, and displays pay tribute to their courage and sacrifices for freedom.

3) Stage 3 is the total war—the world war. There is a new change in the arrangement and the atmosphere of the museum. One discovers the spread out of global war, the birth of two super-nations, the United States and the Soviet Union, and the impact war preparations had on scientific and technological breakthroughs (medicine, chemicals, aeronautics, and communications).

In addition to the evocation of a major fact of this century, the creation of the A-bomb, this stage recreates for the visitor the great battles, particularly the landing in Normandy. Numerous scale models, sketches, artifacts, materials and equipment, uniforms, a World War II jeep, etc. are displayed.

4) This phase is devoted to the landing and defeat of Nazism. Several audio-visual shows illustrate D-Day. Simultaneously on three screens are German and Allied pictures and photos of the landing beaches nowadays. A large map demonstrates the War to the West until the capitulation on May 7, 1945.

5)The last stage, devoted to freedom and human rights through Jacques Perrin's movie "The Hope", is presented on a wide screen with translation into several languages. It is a philosophical work which shows how conflicts are still churning in 1988, 44 years after D-Day. The purpose of the film is to show the fragility of democracy in a world constantly torn by strife. Yet its delivery depicts a message of hope.

In conclusion, the delegation was most impressed with this museum. Our Committee will be moving forward to create a memorial and museum in the Washington, DC area so that future generations, and our youth in particular, may also be given an opportunity to understand the roots of America's freedom, the price that has been paid for our liberty, and the challenges to world peace that exist today.

○